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TITLE: HIV Prevention Education for Preservice and Beginning Classroom Teachers

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ISSUE: Regular K-12 classroom teachers can play a significant role in reducing the spread of HIV infection. Teachers not only provide elementary health education in all states (and secondary health education in some), but daily respond to student questions on a variety of topics and are likely to have HIV-infected students in their classes. Teachers therefore must have the capacity to provide health and HIV education with knowledge and comfort and must be aware of such important issues as universal precautions and the confidentiality of student health information. Unfortunately, the teacher training curriculum in most higher education institutions offers little space for such essential information.

SETTING: The primary audience is deans, faculty, and students in university teacher training programs; a secondary audience is K-12 teachers in school settings.

PROJECT: To address the needs of preservice teachers, AACTE has developed unique materials that promote the infusion of HIV and other serious health problems into the teacher training classroom. These materials are also useful for inservice education with new teachers.

RESULTS: The project has developed two products that can be used in higher education and K-12 school inservice settings where time constraints dictate program content. Brief information sheets with case studies and interactive video-imbedded CD-ROM product allow faculty to incorporate HIV/AIDS and health information into already-existing methods courses. These products may also be useful for inservice with new teachers.

LESSONS LEARNED: Teacher education programs are well aware that they are preparing future teachers for the "real world," in which K-12 students face serious health issues, including HIV. Preservice teachers and beginning teachers respond to teaching materials that are current, innovative, and deal with social issues. Materials that can be easily infused into the regular teacher training or inservice curriculum are particularly useful.

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